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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 43/178, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to charge the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) with the supervision of the development of the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people and to report to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in implementing the resolution. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a note on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/44/637) to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. Annexed to the note was a report containing summaries of 26 project proposals, which had been identified by experts retained by UNCHS (Habitat), for inclusion in the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people.

2. Following its consideration of the note by the Secretary-General, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/235 on assistance to the Palestinian people, in which it, inter alia, took note of the report annexed to the note by the Secretary-General and reiterated its call for the implementation of development projects in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the projects mentioned in Assembly resolution 39/223 (para. 7); called for treating on a transit basis Palestinian exports and imports passing through

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neighbouring ports and points of exit and entry (para. 4) and also called for the granting of trade concessions and concrete preferential measures for Palestinian exports on the basis of Palestinian certificates of origin (para. 5). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

3. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 44/235, and on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) wrote to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) forwarding the project proposals contained in the report annexed to the note by the Secretary-General (A/44/637) for consideration by the Governing Council of UNDP with a view to their inclusion in the UNDP Programme of Assistance for the Palestinian People. The Administrator was also requested to bring to the attention of the Governing Council, for appropriate action, the projects mentioned in Assembly resolution 39/223. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) also wrote to the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), bringing to his attention, for appropriate action, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the General Assembly resolution 44/235.

4. Any actions taken by UNDP and GATT relative to the implementation of paragraphs 4, 5 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 44/235 will be conveyed to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

5. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 44/235, the General Assembly requested the international community, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. With a view to including information about such assistance in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Assembly pursuant to paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has written to the relevant agencies and organizations requesting pertinent information about their assistance to the Palestinian people. Information obtained from these sources will be reflected in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.